

Remarks

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 15 and 18 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in originally filed claim 5 and in the specification on page 3 lines 29-32, page 11 lines 20-24, page 23 lines 18-23 and page 29 lines 17-25. Support for the amendment to claim 5 can be found within the claim itself. Claims 12 and 13 are amended to correct typographical errors. Claim 15 is amended to correct claim dependency. Claim 18 is amended to change claim dependency in view of the amendment to claims 1 and 5.

Claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 25-29 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in the specification on page 28 line 34 (claim 25); on page 3 lines 29-32, page 11 lines 20-24, page 23 lines 18-23, page 29 lines 17-25 and in originally filed claim 5 (claims 26, 27 and 28); and page 4 lines 7-8 (claim 29).

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-16, 18-20 and 24-29 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 28 being independent claims.

Telephone Interview with Examiner Belyavskyi

Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on August 18, 2005. The outstanding rejection and the teaching of the prior art reference were discussed during the interview but no agreement was reached as to either.

Clarification of the Record

In the previous response, Applicant indicated that "the reference (WO 99/15629) does not teach the use of bFGF for in vitro cultures of hematopoietic progenitor cells, either explicitly or inherently". (See page 7 of Office Action.) This statement is incorrect. Page 5 of WO 99/15629 teaches use of a matrix coated with angiogenic factors (which can include bFGF) for use in an in vitro culture of hematopoietic progenitor cells. Accordingly, Applicant wishes to retract this incorrect statement.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-16, 18-20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/15629.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that neuronal cells are produced from a hematopoietic progenitor cell culture that comprises bFGF and EGF. New claim 28 recites that neuronal cells are produced from a hematopoietic progenitor cell culture that comprises bFGF and NGF. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification as recited above.

WO 99/15629 does not teach, either explicitly or inherently, an in vitro culture system for hematopoietic progenitor cells that comprises these combinations of growth factors. Accordingly the pending claims are not anticipated by WO 99/15629.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,



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